



THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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SC to hear on Friday plea on delay in release of voter turnout data

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to hear on Friday a plea by an NGO seeking direction to the Election Commission to upload voter turnout data on its website within 48 hours of conclusion of polling for the Lok Sabha elections. The petition said the delay in the release of final voter turnout data, coupled with the unusually high revision of over 5% in the poll panel's press note of April 30 has raised suspicion over correctness of the data.



People stand in queues to cast their votes at a polling station in Fakeer Gujri on the outskirts of Srinagar, in the fourth phase of Lok Sabha elections on Monday | P1



BENGAL VIOLENCE

In this combo, BJP candidate Dilip Ghosh's personal security (left) and a TMC worker (right) got injured after clashes between rival groups in the Susunia area of Bardhaman-Durgapur seat

Revanna gets bail in abduction case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE special court on Monday granted bail to Holenarasipur JDS MLA HD Revanna, who is facing charges of kidnapping a sexual assault survivor in a case allegedly involving his son Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna. It has come as

a big relief for Revanna, who was in judicial custody after being remanded in the SIT custody on May 8. The SIT arrested him on May 4, immediately after his anticipatory bail was rejected.

Judge Santhosh Gajanan Bhat of the special court pronounced the order in the evening after day-long ar-

guments by the defence and the prosecution on the criteria over granting or rejecting bail.

Quoting various judgments in support of his submission, Revanna's advocate CV Nagesh argued that Section 364(A), which was introduced as an amendment to IPC Section 364 to punish dreaded terrorists, had been invoked against the MLA.

Victim's video won't impact probe: Experts

A day after a video clip surfaced on social media, in which the alleged sexual assault victim claimed that nobody kidnapped her and MLA HD Revanna and his son and MP Prajwal Revanna are innocent, the video, according to legal experts, may not have any implication on the SIT probe | P4

Highest Srinagar voter turnout in decades; better 4th phase polling

Chadoora, Charar, Ganderbal segments record over 45% votes

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

AFTER registering a dip in voter turnout in the first three phases, the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha elections saw a 67.25% turnout in 96 seats across 10 states and Union territories. In the 2019 polls, the polling percentage in these 96 seats was 69.12%.

"Polling in the fourth phase of general elections 2024 closed at 6 pm, but a large number of voters were still in the queue at polling stations," the Election Commission said in a statement, adding these were provisional figures.

Voting was also held in Srinagar, one of the three parliamentary constituencies of Kashmir. Polling was brisk by Srinagar's standards — it recorded

37.98% voter turnout — the highest in decades. In 2019, it was just 14.43%. Srinagar's highest ever turnout was 40.9% in 1996. This is the first general election in Kashmir after the hollowing out of Article 370 in 2019. Chadoora, Charar-i-Sharief, Ganderbal, Kangan, Khanshab and Shopian Assembly segments recorded more than 45% turnout.

West Bengal recorded 78.37%, followed by Andhra Pradesh (76.5%), Odisha (73.97%), Madhya Pradesh (70.98%), Jharkhand (65.2%), Telangana (64.87%), UP (58.05%) and Bihar (57.06%). The low voter turnout in the last three phases has been a cause of worry for the Election Commission and political parties.

The fourth round is crucial for the BJP as it hopes to make consider-

able gains in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha. In 2019, the BJP and its allies won 47 of these 96 seats.

One of the main highlights of the fourth phase is the simultaneous election to all 175 Assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh and 28 in Odisha. The contest in Andhra is keenly watched as the NDA alliance of the BJP, Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Pawan Kalyan-led Jana Sena Party (JSP) is taking on the ruling YSRCP led by Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

With Andhra Pradesh and Telangana concluding the polling, the fourth phase will also mark the culmination of voting in South where expects a big haul of seats. Scattered incidents of violence were reported in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

EXPRESS READ

3 kids found dead in Vijayapura STP tank

Vijayapura: Three children were found dead in a tank at an STP in Vijayapura on Monday. The trio had gone missing after a camel ride on Sunday, and their bodies were found floating in the tank the next day | P3

Maliwal says Kejriwal's PA 'assaulted' her

New Delhi: AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal on Monday alleged that a member of Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's personal assistant assaulted her at CM's official residence. Police have not yet received a formal complaint | P9

Bengaluru stands 4th in Class 10, 12 CBSE exams

Bengaluru: Bengaluru secured the fourth position in Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) Class 12 and 10 examinations. It secured 96.95 pass percentage in Class 12 and 99.26 in Class 10. The results of the examinations were announced on Monday | P2

BILLBOARD COLLAPSES IN RAIN-HIT MUMBAI, 8 DEAD

An illegal billboard over 100 feet tall fell over a petrol pump in Ghatkopar area of Mumbai as unseasonal rain and dust storms lashed the city

Eight people were found dead. Efforts were under way on Monday night to rescue about 100 people feared trapped beneath the hoarding. About 70 people were injured



Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation said the maximum permissible size for hoardings is 40x40 sqft, but the one that collapsed was 120x120 sqft | P5

India gets strategic depth with Iran deal

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA and Iran signed a contract on Monday allowing India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) to equip and operate the strategically located Shahid Beheshti Port in Iran's Chabahar for 10 years.

"We are scripting a new chapter in bilateral partnership. The contract will give a boost to regional connectivity and India's linkages with Afghanistan, Central Asia and Eurasia," the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said. The IPGL will invest approximately \$120 million in equipping the port. India has also offered a credit window equivalent to \$250 million, for mutually identified projects that will improve port-related infrastructure in Chabahar.

It is a more economical and stable alternative route for Indian goods to reach landlocked Afghanistan and Central Asian countries, bypassing Pakistan.



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ARCHANA N K

593



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589

TOTAL APPEARED 279
DISTINCTION 149
FIRST CLASS 115

95% & ABOVE 22
90% & ABOVE 72
85% & ABOVE 55

100 OUT OF 100
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